



**Stanislaus County
Water Advisory Committee**

Minutes

November 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center
1020 10th St, Suite 102
Modesto, California

Members Present:

Louis Brichetto	Jim Mortensen	Thomas Smith
Larry Byrd	Tom Orvis	Walter Ward
Francisco Canela	Donald Petersen	Forrest White
Neil Hudson	Sean Roddy	Terry Withrow
Ray Kablanow	Cooper Rossiter	

Members Absent:

Vince Dykzeul	Rob Santos	Wayne Zipser
Richard Gemperle	Chris Vierra	Bill Zoslocki
Michael Lynch		

- I. **Called to Order at 9:01 a.m.** – Due to Wayne Zipser's illness, Walter Ward opened the meeting at 9:01 am.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** Upon request of Walter the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.
- III. **Public Comment**
None.
- IV. **Roll Call**
A quorum of voting members was present.
- V. **1. Approval of October 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes**
The minutes of the last meeting were presented by the Walter. The members were asked to consider the minutes and the action was taken as follows:
Motion: Donald Petersen
Second: Tom Orvis
Vote: Unanimous
- VI. **The State Water Resources Control Board's 35% Unimpaired Flow Proposal – Tim O'Laughlin, San Joaquin Tributaries Authority Legal Counsel**
Tim O'Laughlin gave a presentation on the proposal from the California State Water Resources Control Board to increase flows in the southern Delta by changing the amount of water released from the tributary rivers to the San Joaquin River during specific times. The rivers he represents in the Tributaries Authority include the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers.

Mr. O’Laughlin summarized the issue for the meeting as follows. The proposed new flow requirements were outlined in a report known as the “Draft Supplemental Environmental Document” for the “Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality”. The document developed an analysis of the flows needed to support Delta water quality objectives, especially for aquatic species and salinity. The proposal involves releasing water from the storage facilities between February and June. The Tributary Authority and its members provided testimony for the initial hearings on the proposal in 2013. Since the hearings the Water Board staff has been re-visiting the document and considering all the comments in order to develop a revision that is expected to be released and heard in early 2015. In his continuing engagement on the matter Mr. O’Laughlin believes the new documents and proposal will increase the proposed unimpaired flow release of tributary water from 35% to 40%. That indicates that the arguments on the impacts of such water losses presented by the water users in the Authority area were not given adequate consideration. Mr. O’Laughlin went on to explain the scope of the potential impacts. Of particular interest to the Advisory Committee was the notion that the State’s report indicated the loss would have a relatively small impact on groundwater use. Supervisor Withrow said that the proposal has the concern of the not only the agencies that are part of the Authority but the County as well. He wanted the Advisory Committee to be informed about the issue so that they could assist the County in any of their efforts to make sure both the potential impacts to the economy and the groundwater be communicated to the State Water Resources Control Board. The presentation was followed by some concerns and discussion by members of the Committee.

VII. North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project Update – Brad Hawn

Brad Hawn presented the program on the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program with Lyndell Melton of RMC Water and Environment assisting. The effort is a collaboration of the cities of Modesto, Turlock and Ceres along with Del Puerto Water District and Stanislaus County. The project was started in 2010 and the concept involves moving highly treated wastewater from the cities under the San Joaquin River and into the Delta-Mendota Canal for use by Del Puerto Water District. Del Puerto is a multi-county water district that is located primarily in Stanislaus County that heretofore has relied solely on Delta water supplies for irrigation water. The areas under irrigation have little or no groundwater and the recent allocation from the Delta supplies, including a zero allocation this year, have instigated Del Puerto water users to be very creative about expanding the sources for their water portfolio. The proposal to use recycled water establishes a reliable, long-term supply. The proposal helps the cities by eliminating discharge to the San Joaquin River which has become so heavily regulated it may be prohibitive to do so in the future. Mr. Hawn described the sources, routing and storage alternatives of the project. The project has been presented at both the State and federal levels and in a recent presentation at the federal level in Washington with the Bureau of Reclamation and others the proposal was favorably met with as it fits very well with policy direction of the relevant agencies.

VIII. Revision No. 1 of the Groundwater Ordinance – Process Discussion

Walt Ward presented some edits that had been made to the ordinance since the WAC last voted in approval to move this item forward to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration of adoption. The edits were meant to be clarification only and no new concepts or elements had been added to the ordinance since last reviewed by the WAC

members. Jack Doering, County Counsel, briefly described the approval process that the Board of Supervisors would consider such as the 1st reading, the 2nd reading and final approval. The process was estimated to take about 45 days from the initial Board action scheduled for November 25th. Supervisor Terry Withrow commented that the ordinance was a step forward and openly acknowledged that it was not perfect. The ordinance will remain a living document that will need to be changed over time to address new and emerging issues. Mr. Withrow underscored that it was the County's mission to seek solutions to the water resources challenges in the County and, in particular, stressed the importance of enhancing the management of surface water resources in the County, especially in regards to providing alternative or supplemental water supply options to the orchards and vines in the northeast foothills area of the County. The Groundwater Ordinance will be an agenda action item on the Board of Supervisors November 25, 2014 meeting.

IX. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Governance – Process Discussion

Walt Ward outlined the next steps for governance discussion would be taken up by the TAC. He also mentioned that a special presentation on the content, scope and process of the new groundwater law would be presented at a location to be named in Turlock on February 5th. The program was co-sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies, the California Water Foundation and Stanislaus County.

X. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center
1020 10th Street, Suite 102
Modesto, California

PREPARED BY:
ANETTE ARIAS, Administrative Secretary